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EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT A

ASSASSINS



VINCE HERNANDEZ
JORDAN GUNDERSON
TEODORO GONZALEZ
JOSH REED

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The story so far...

They are raised from their youth with strict obedience and brutally trained to protect and serve their respective masters with discipline, loyalty and often times violence, if necessary. They are the Executive Assistants.

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT: ASSASSINS

[LIFE AFTER DEATH]

PART 1 OF 3

WRITER

VINCE HERNANDEZ

PENCILS

JORDAN GUNDERSON

COLORS

TEODORO GONZALEZ

LETTERING

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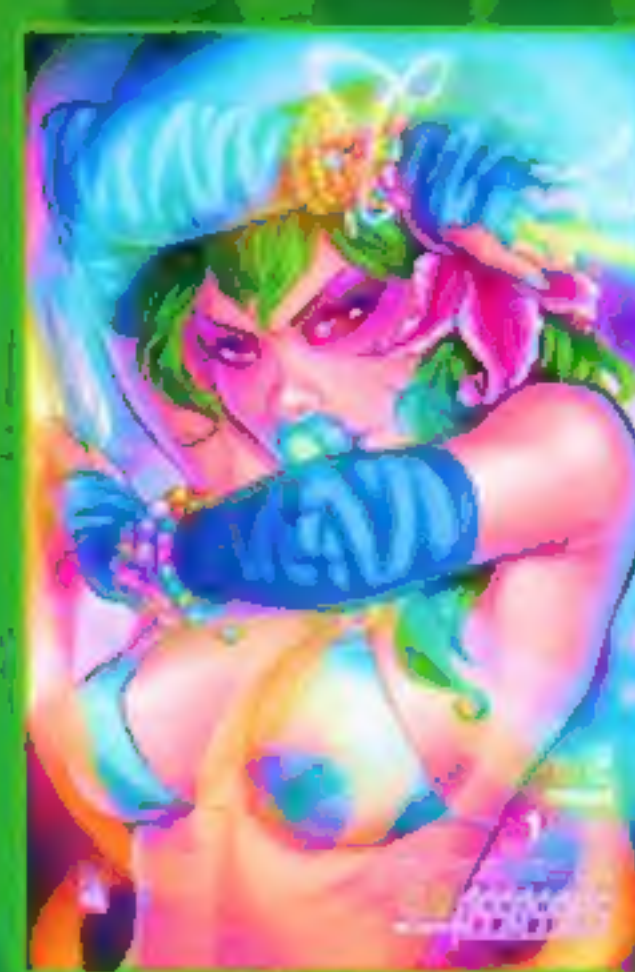
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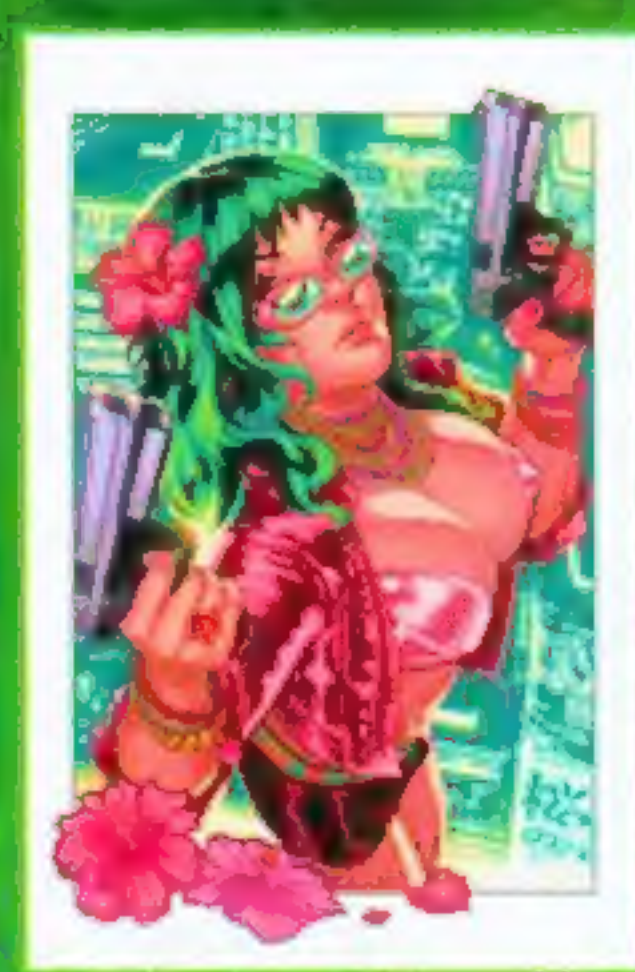
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Executive Assistant: Iris created by David Wohl, Brad Foxhoven & Michael Turner

Editor: FRANK MASTROMAURO Design and Production: MARK ROSLAN, PETER STEIGERWALD, CHARLIE MOK

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FOR ASPEN:

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Marketing Assistant: CJ WILSON Production Assistant: CHAZ RIGGS Wilted: CHRIS RUPP Director of Design and Production: MARK ROSLAN

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XINJIANG, CHINA.

WHEN I FIRST RECEIVED MY FLOWER NAME FROM MY HEADMASTER SHUJI AS A YOUNG GIRL, I CHERISHED THE MEANING OF THE LILY. IT SYMBOLIZED PURITY OF HEART AND VIRTUE.

AND VIRTUOUS I WAS... AT FIRST. I REIGNED AT THE TOP OF MY CLASS UNTIL, A FIERCE GIRL NAMED IRIS SHOWED UP.

WHAT KIND OF FLOWER IS IT?*

DON'T TOUCH IT, DANDELION! IF THE HEADMASTER FINDS OUT, WE'LL BE WASHING THE CELLAR FLOOR FOR WEEKS!

SMACK

THEN, I LEARNED ABOUT FAILURE...

*TRANSLATED FROM MANDARIN.

BUT IT'S SO PRETTY!

IT DOESN'T MATTER. IT DOESN'T BELONG TO US. YOU KNOW THE RULES.

YES, YES-- I KNOW. THIEVERY IS A MARK OF WEAKNESS BLAH, BLAH, BLAH. BUT IT'S JUST A FLOWER, CAMELLIA!

IT BELONGS TO THE SCHOOL, JUST LIKE US. WE ARE THE PROPERTY OF THE HEADMASTER UNTIL OUR PURCHASE-- OR WOULD YOU RATHER END UP LIKE A FAILURE. LIKE BLOSSOM-- OR WORSE YET-- LILY?!

...I LEARNED ABOUT LOSS...

SHHH! CAMELLIA! IF THE HEADMASTER HEARS US SAY THAT NAME, SHE'LL WHIP US GOOD!

NOW YOU CARE ABOUT THE RULES.

C'MON. LET'S GET BACK BEFORE WE'RE IN EVEN MORE TROUBLE.

...BUT, MOST IMPORTANTLY...

SHINJUKU
DISTRICT,
JAPAN.

...I LEARNED
WHAT IT FEELS LIKE
TO BE DEAD.



HEY, GIRL!
WHY DON'T
YOU COME DOWN
OFF THAT STAGE
AND LET ME SHOW
YOU THE MEANING
OF A GOOD
TIME?*

THAT'S WHAT I HAD TO LEARN ON MY
OWN. WHAT THEY DON'T TEACH YOU IN
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT ACADEMY.

HOW TO
SURVIVE ON YOUR
OWN-- ONCE YOU
ARE ALONE.

CRAAAAK

IT'S A WHOLE NEW WORLD AT
THAT POINT. ONE WE'RE FORCED
TO LEARN QUICKLY...

*TRANSLATED FROM
JAPANESE.

I'LL MAKE
YOU SCREAM FOR
THAT, GIRL!

...OR DIE.

YOU'RE
NOT THE
FIRST MAN
TO TRY.



I'M USED TO FIGHTING MEN.

NEVER MET ONE THAT HASN'T ABUSED ME IN SOME WAY -- PHYSICALLY... OR EMOTIONALLY.



CRAKK



ONE AT A TIME, OR ALL AT ONCE?



SO-- I'VE ALWAYS FOUGHT BACK.

GET A HOLD OF HER!

HRRRGHHH!

UNNNH!

THUNK



MEN ARE EASY, IN MANY WAYS.

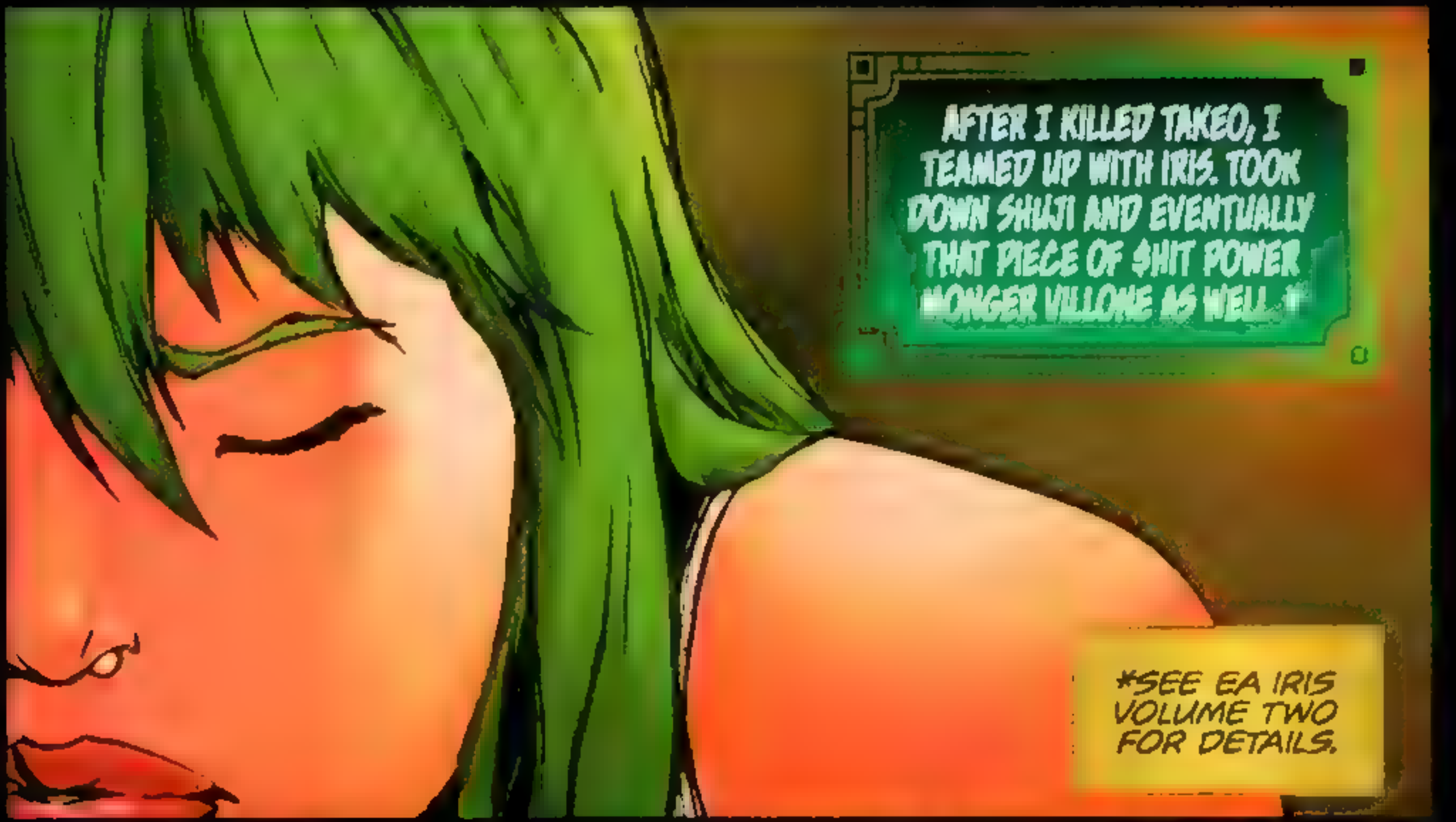
THEY WEAR THEIR EMOTIONS ON THEIR SLEEVES.





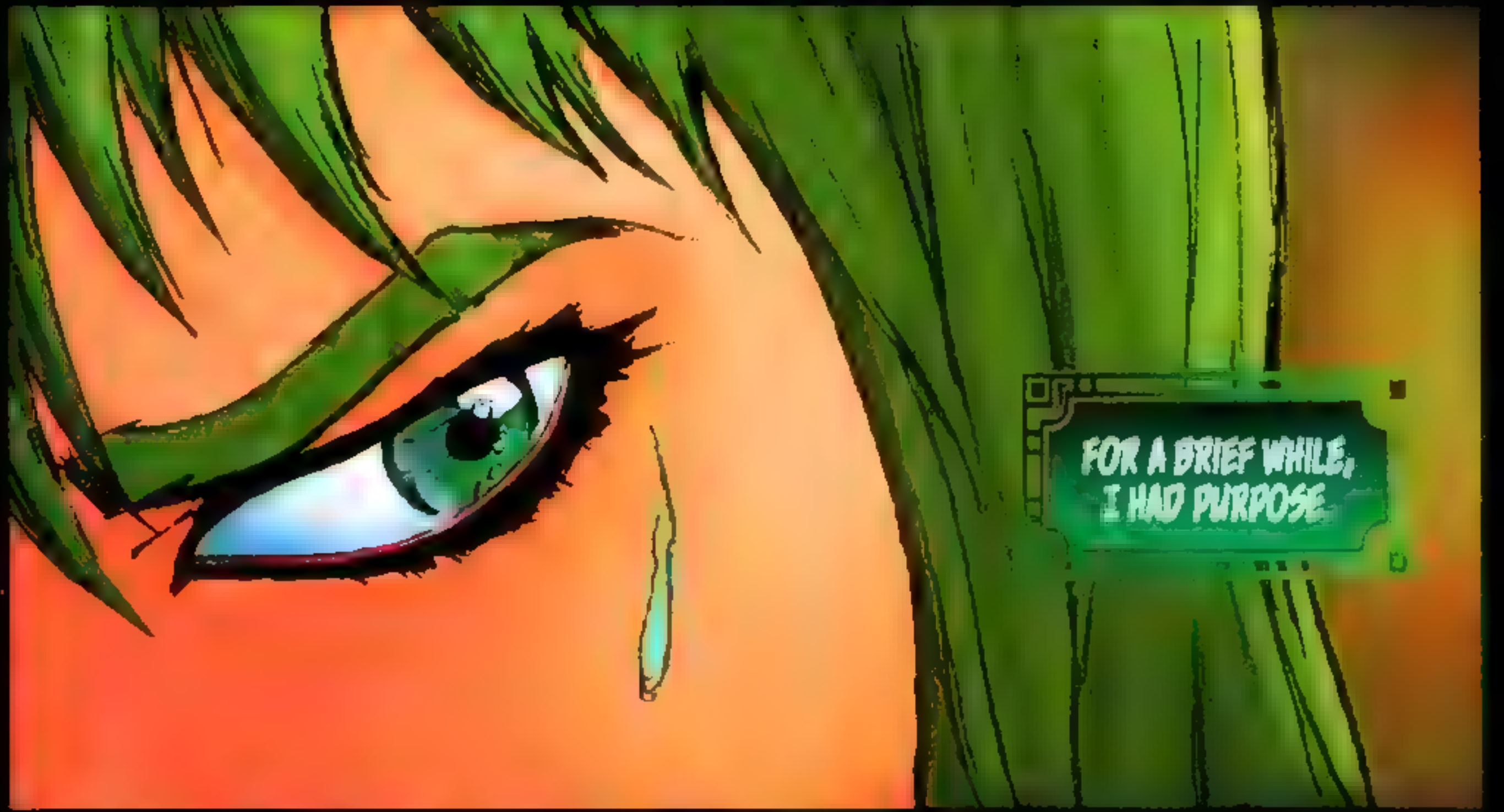


HE'S RIGHT.
I CAN'T HELP MYSELF. I
WOULDN'T EVEN KNOW
WHERE TO START



AFTER I KILLED TAKED, I
TEAMED UP WITH IRIS. TOOK
DOWN SHUJI AND EVENTUALLY
THAT PIECE OF SHIT POWER
MONGER VILLONE AS WELL *

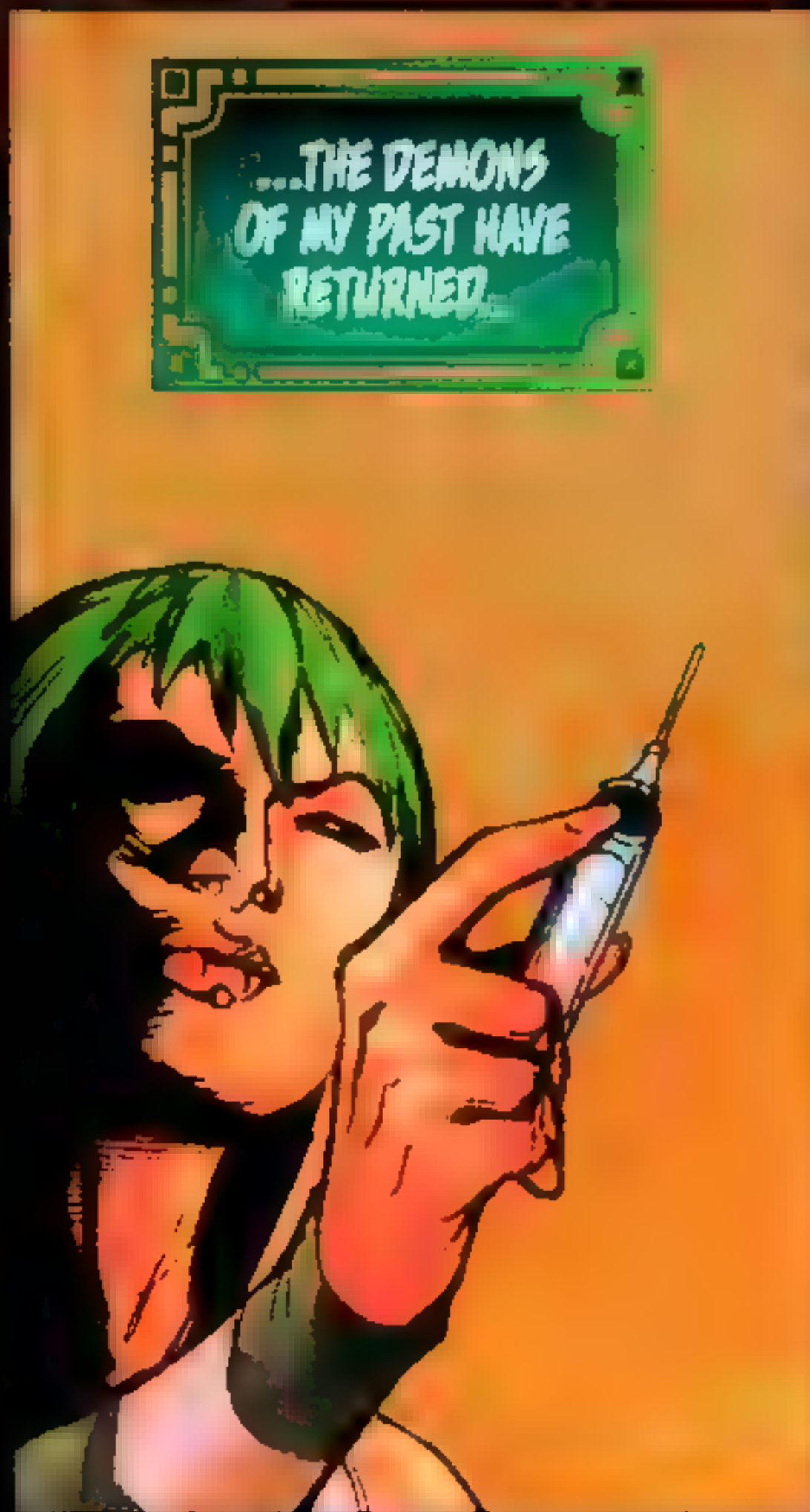
*SEE EA IRIS
VOLUME TWO
FOR DETAILS.



FOR A BRIEF WHILE,
I HAD PURPOSE



NOW



...THE DEMONS
OF MY PAST HAVE
RETURNED



...AND TAKEN
WHAT'S LEFT OF
MY PRESENT

TOKYO, JAPAN.

SHE'S IN THE SHINJUKU DISTRICT, WORKING AS A DANCER.

YOU'VE WITNESSED THIS YOURSELF?

IN THE FLESH, SIR. SHE TOOK OUT A FEW MISBEHAVING PATRONS LAST NIGHT AS I SAT AND WATCHED.

SHE SAW YOUR FACE? HAVE I TAUGHT YOU NOTHING ABOUT SURVEILLANCE TACTICS?

IT WAS UNAVOIDABLE MAZUTSU, I ASSURE YOU. BUT I HAVE THE SITUATION UNDER CONTROL. ALL OF TAKEO'S ASSETS WILL BE ELIMINATED-- INCLUDING HER-- TRUST ME.

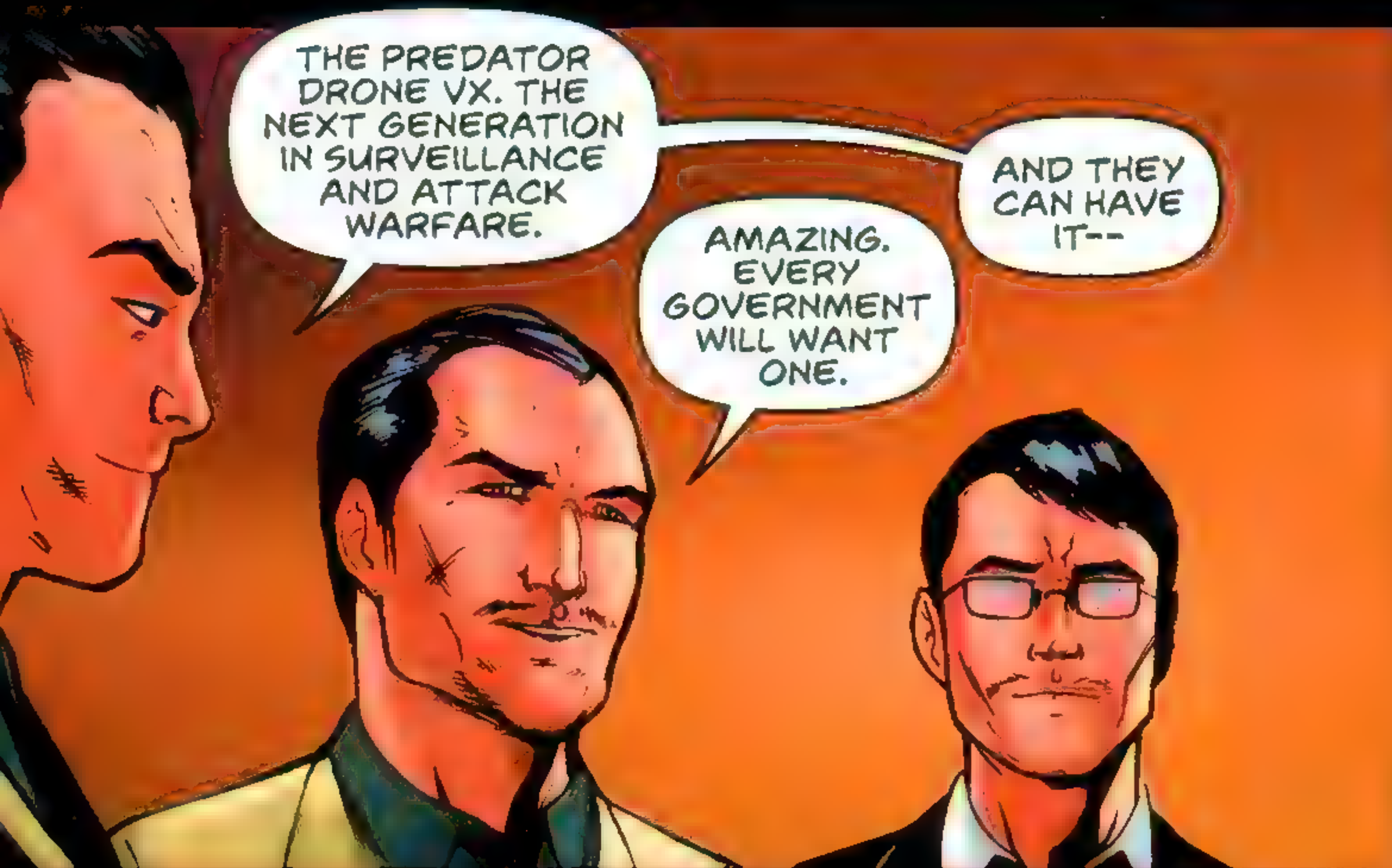
YOU KNOW ME WELL ENOUGH TO KNOW I TRUST NO ONE.

EXCELLENT. NOW, COME, SEE MY LATEST TOY.

WHATEVER SHE KNOWS-- ENDS WITH HER LIFE. UNDERSTOOD?

DO NOT UNDERESTIMATE THE RESILIENCE OF AN EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT. GET IT DONE. AND DO IT QUICKLY.

UNDERSTOOD.





X INSIANG. THE EA ACADEMY. THE NEXT MORNING.

MR. TARVER, IT IS A PLEASURE TO FINALLY MAKE YOUR ACQUAINTANCE.

I AM LILAC, THE ACADEMY'S HEADMASTER. WELCOME TO OUR SCHOOL.

THE PLEASURE IS MINE, MADAM. MY PEOPLE TELL ME YOUR ACADEMY IS THE FINEST IN CHINA.

CLEARLY, YOUR SOURCES ARE KNOWLEDGEABLE ON THE SUBJECT OF *EXECUTIVE ASSISTANTS*, THEN. PLEASE, ALLOW ME TO SHOW YOU FIRSTHAND.



THIS IS OUR MAIN COURTYARD, WHERE THE STUDENTS ARE TRAINED IN THE REQUISITE MARTIAL ARTS STUDIES AS WELL AS SURVIVAL TACTICS, FIELD DISPLAYS, ETC. ALL OF THE TOOLS NEEDED TO SERVE AND PROTECT THEIR MASTER.



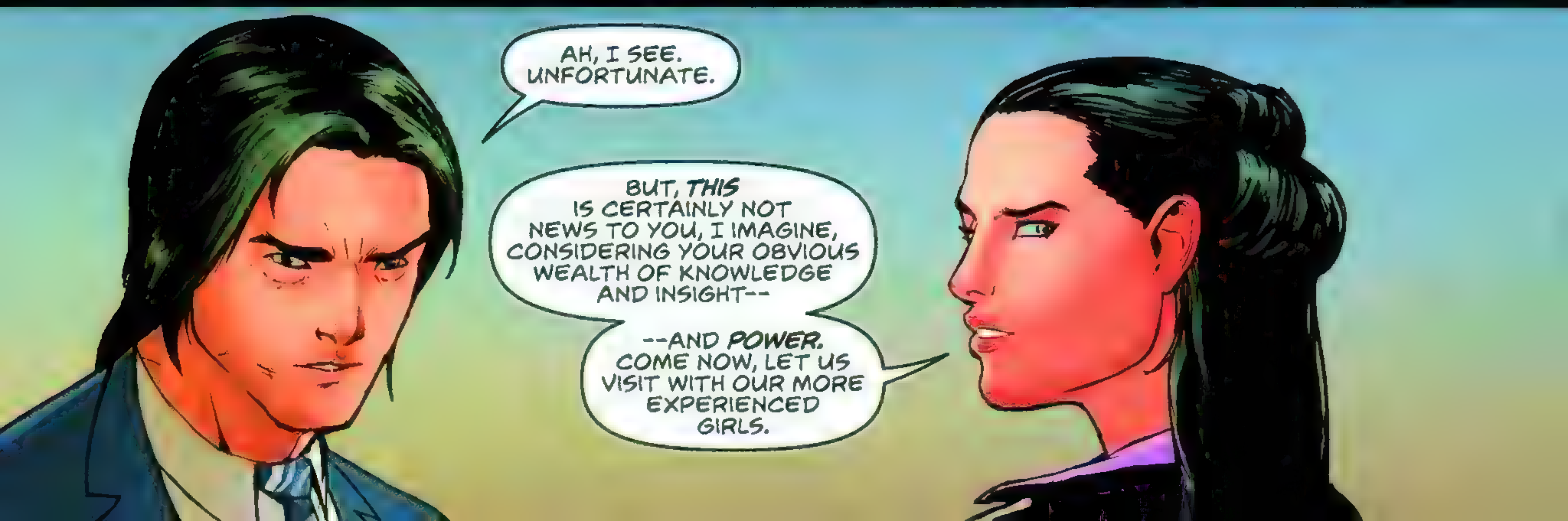
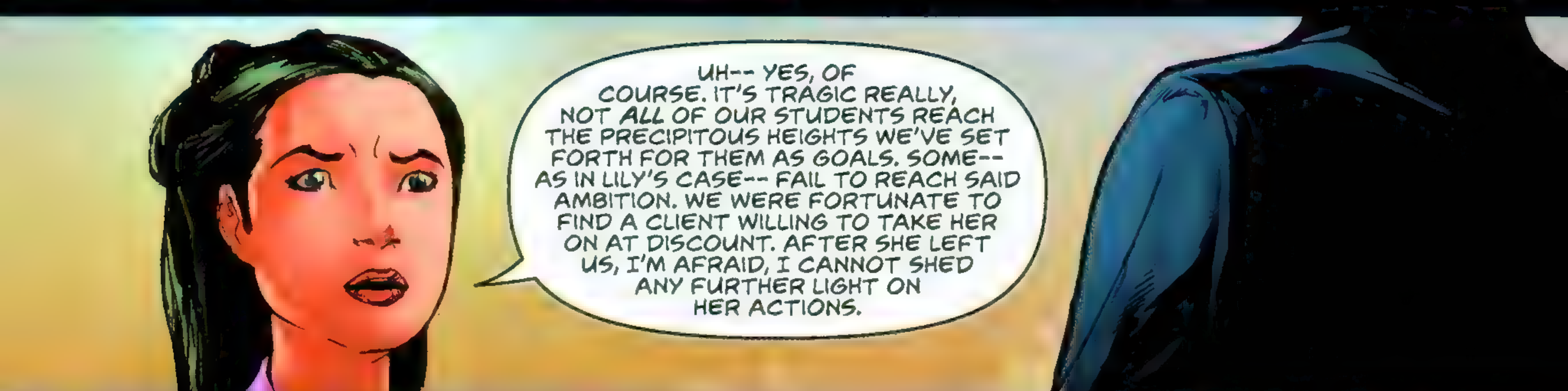
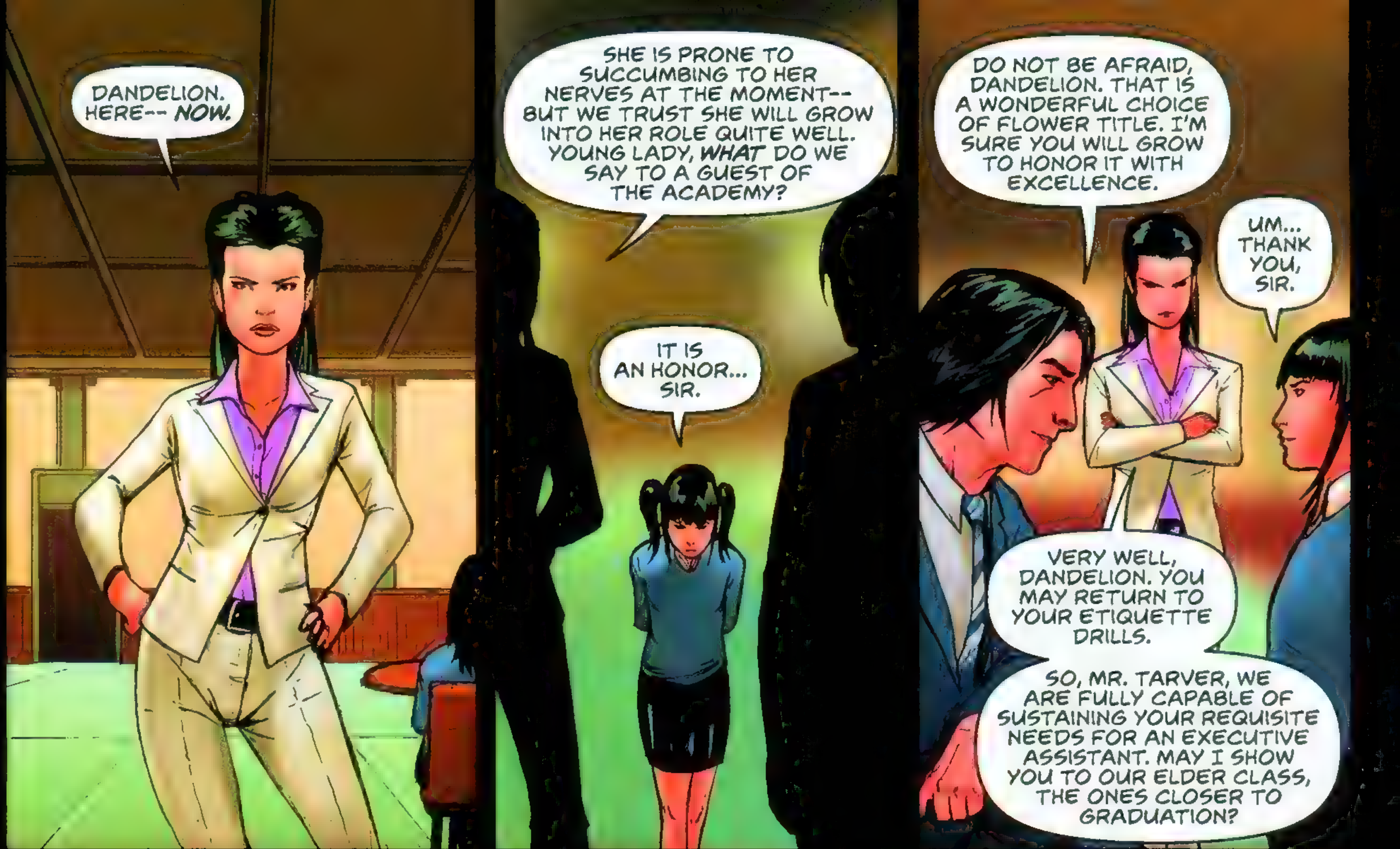
AND THIS IS THE TEA ROOM. WHERE OUR GIRLS ARE TAUGHT OF THE FINER SPECIALTIES REQUIRED FOR THEIR SERVICE.

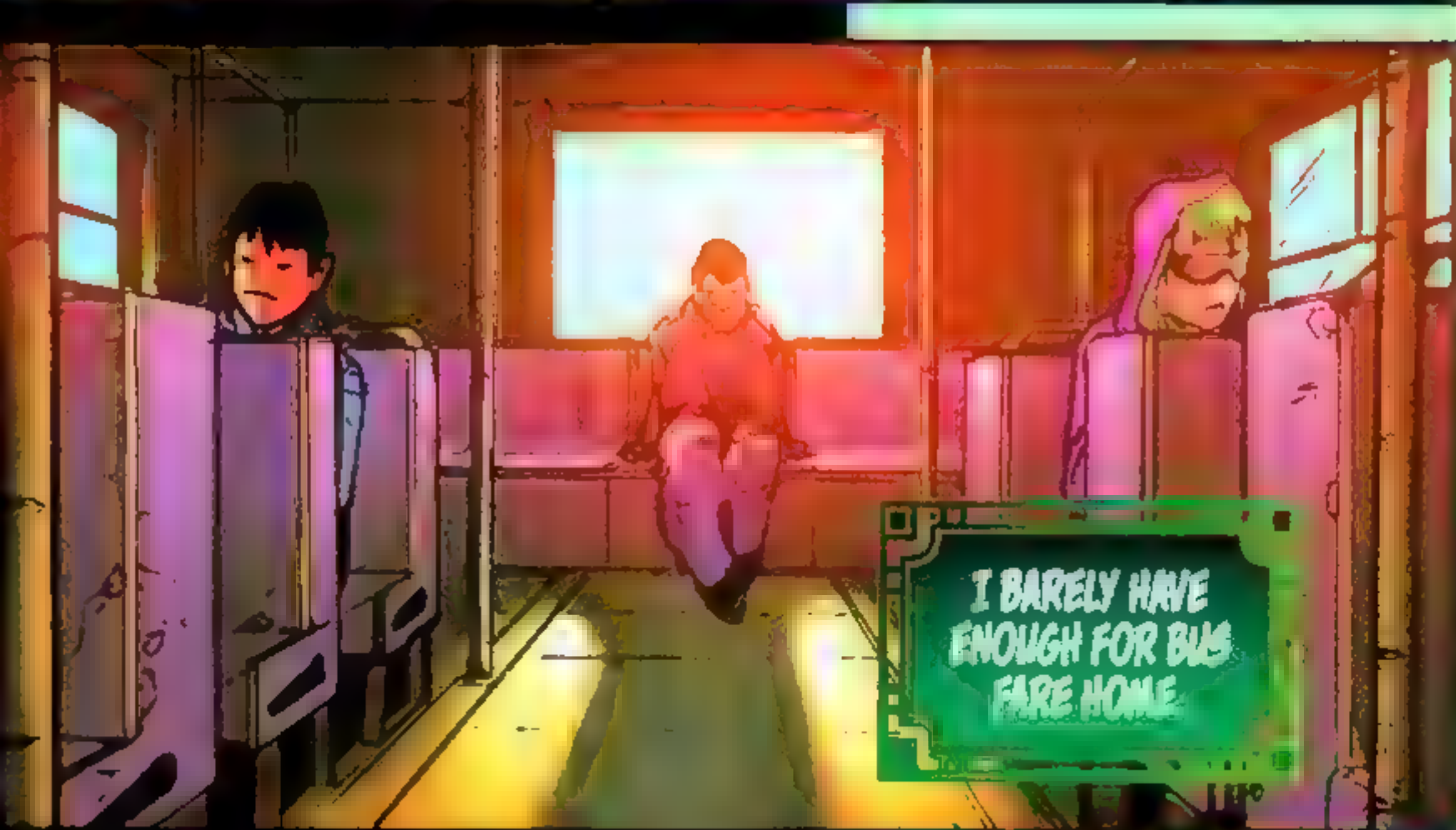
THE FORMALITIES OF UPPER CLASS, OF COURSE.

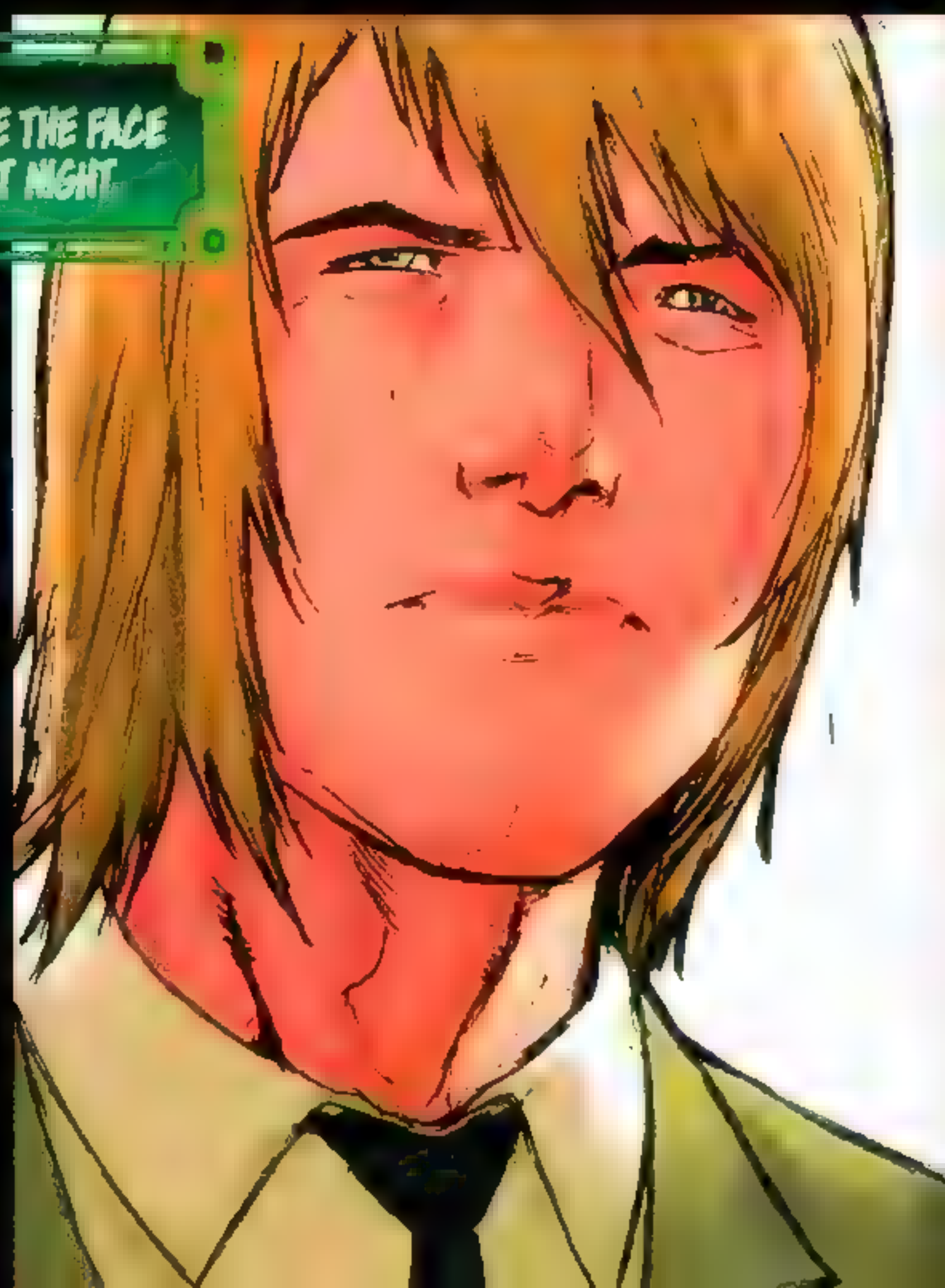


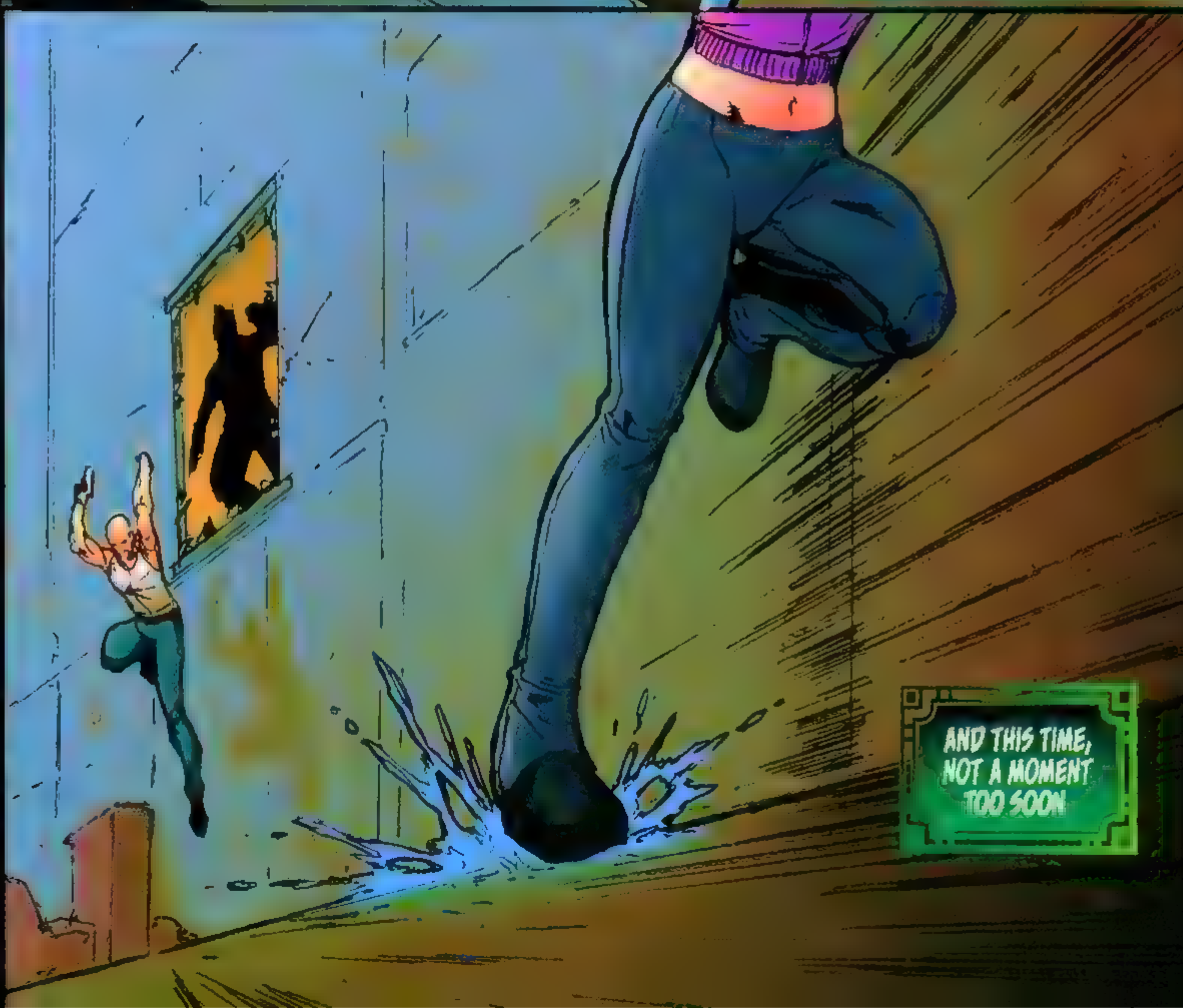
WHO IS THAT GIRL OVER THERE?

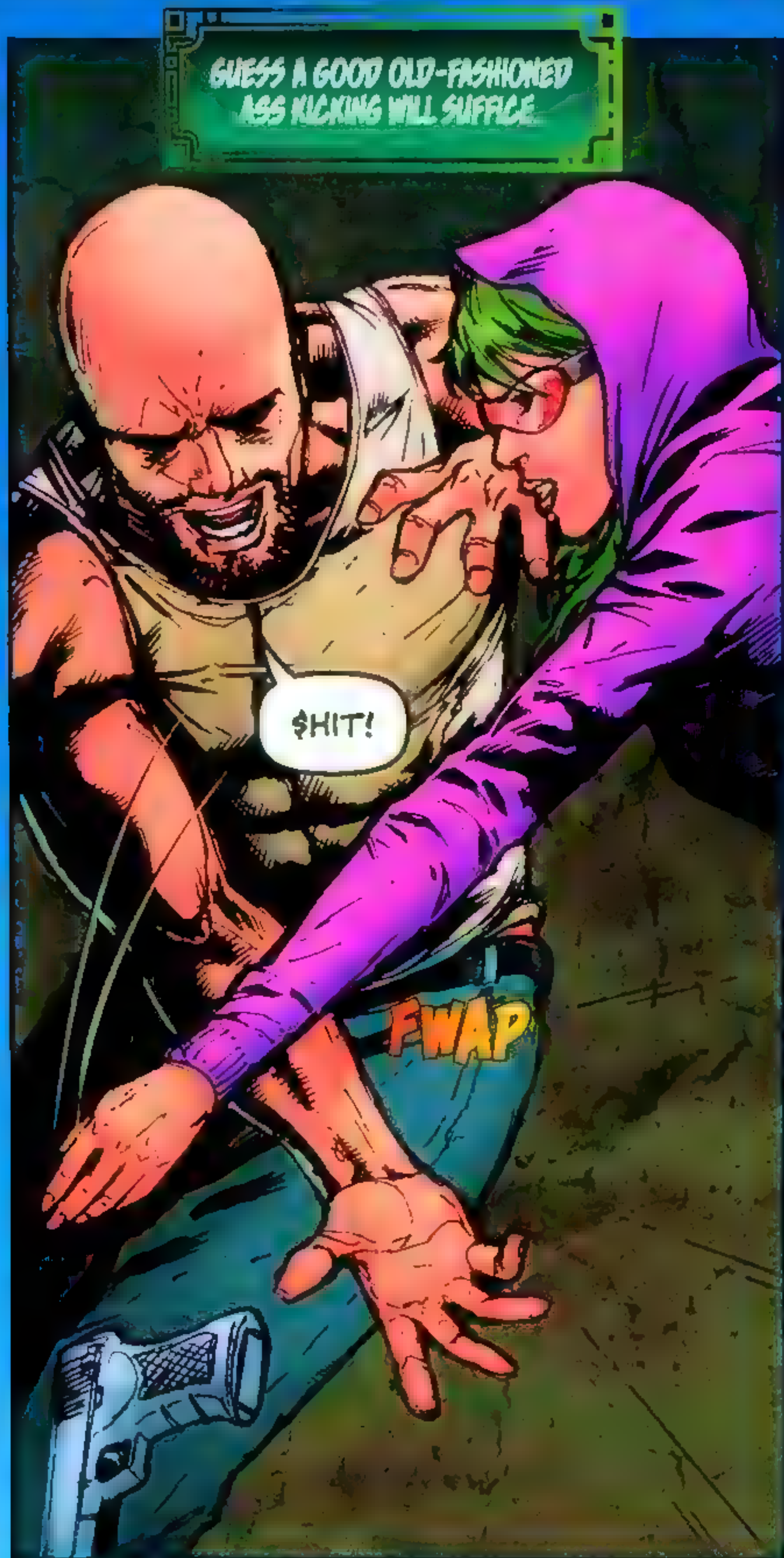
THAT IS OUR YOUNGEST STUDENT, DANDELION. CARE FOR AN INTRODUCTION?













WHOEVER'S AFTER ME
REALLY SENT A WHOLE
PARTY. IT'S FLATTERING,
REALLY.

DON'T
LET HER
ESCAPE!



OUT OF BREATH. I KNOW WHY,
OF COURSE, BUT I CAN'T LET
IT SLOW ME DOWN.

EVEN AT HALF SPEED AND COMING
DOWN FROM A HIGH, I CAN STILL
OUTRUN THESE MORON--



THUNK



THUD



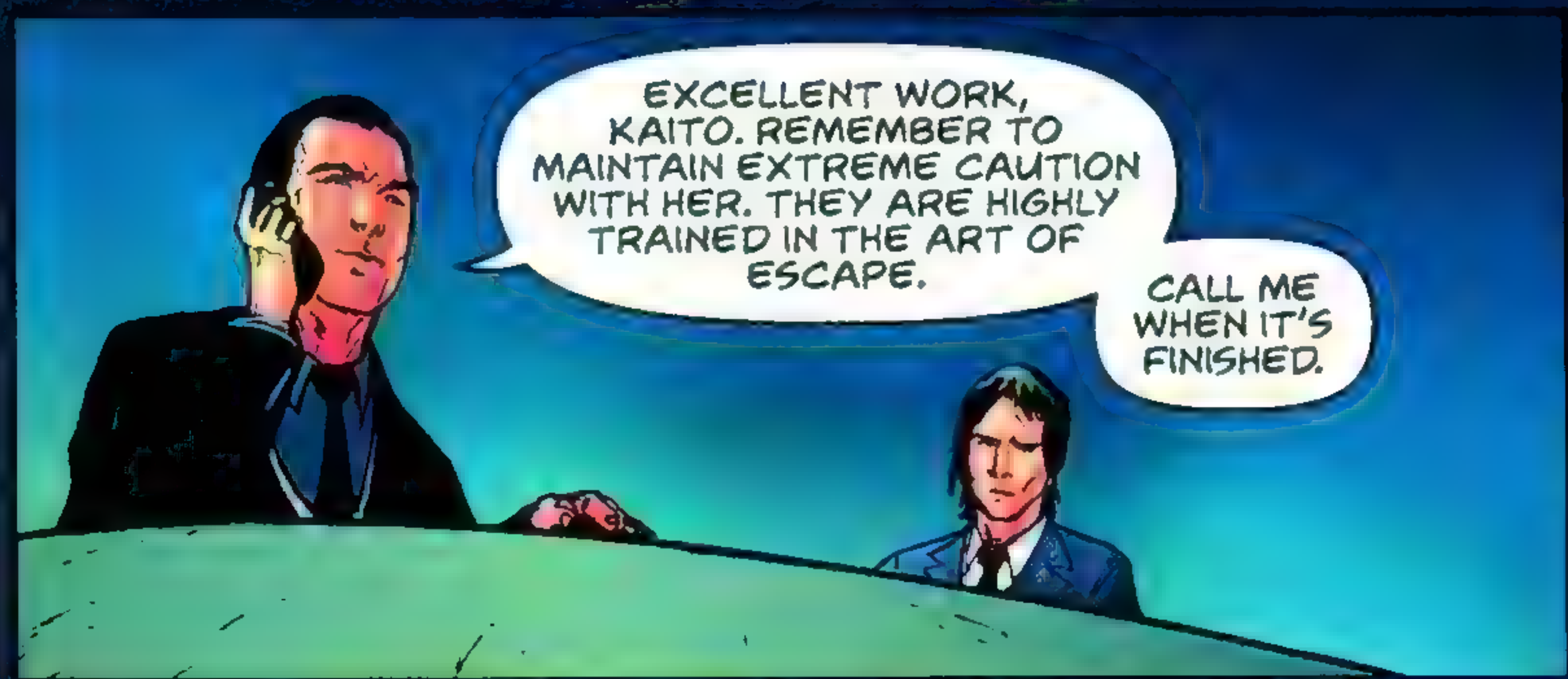
I HAD HEARD
SO MUCH ABOUT YOU
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANTS,
I EXPECTED MORE OF
A CHALLENGE.



MY BOSS,
MAZUTSU, HAS A
MESSAGE FOR YOU.
YOU'RE COMING
WITH US.



OUT ON
THE BALCONY,
TARVER.



EXCELLENT WORK,
KAITO. REMEMBER TO
MAINTAIN EXTREME CAUTION
WITH HER. THEY ARE HIGHLY
TRAINED IN THE ART OF
ESCAPE.

CALL ME
WHEN IT'S
FINISHED.



SO,
WE GOT
HER?

INDEED.
APPARENTLY,
THE CHALLENGE
WASN'T QUITE AS
DIFFICULT AS WE
EXPECTED.



AND
WHAT OF YOUR
ASSIGNMENT IN
CHINA?

IT'S THERE.
THE ACADEMY IS
FULLY OPERATIONAL. THE
HEADMASTER, LILAC, GAVE
ME A PERSONAL TOUR
OF THE GROUNDS.

FUTURE
GENERATIONS ARE
BEING GROOMED AS
WE SPEAK.



THE EXECUTIVE
ASSISTANT ACADEMY.

IT'S SO
BEAUTIFUL. IT
WAS WORTH THE
RISK SNEAKING
OUT TO
SEE IT.

IS THIS SUNSET
AS GORGEOUS AS THE
MAN YOU MET TODAY IN
ETIQUETTE? MR.
TARVER?

SHHH! DON'T MAKE
FUN! I DON'T WANT TO
GET MY HOPES UP, BUT
HE WAS SOOO HANDSOME,
CAMELLIA! I HOPE HE
CHOOSES ME! I WOULD
SERVE HIM EVER SO
DUTIFULLY!

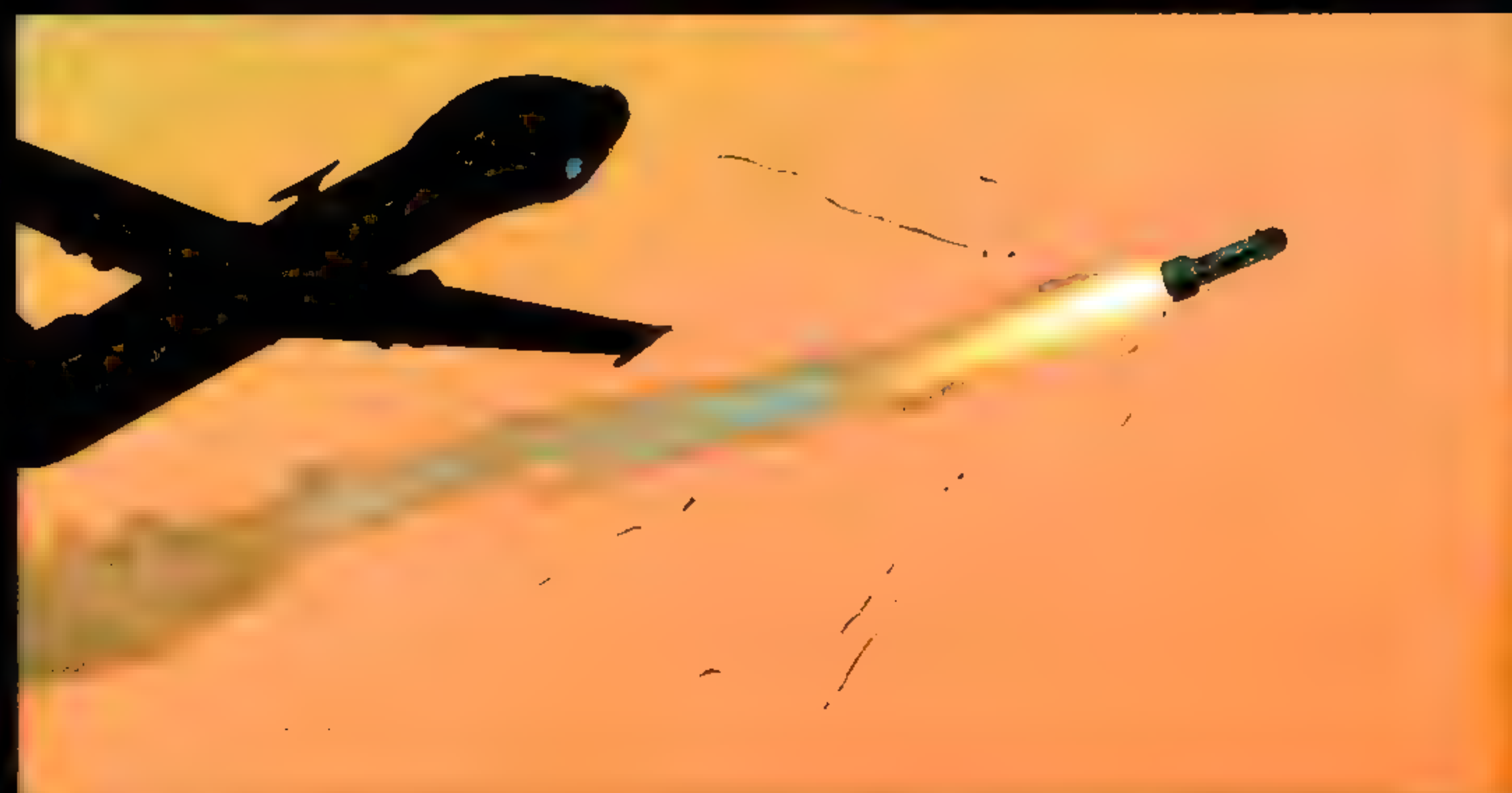
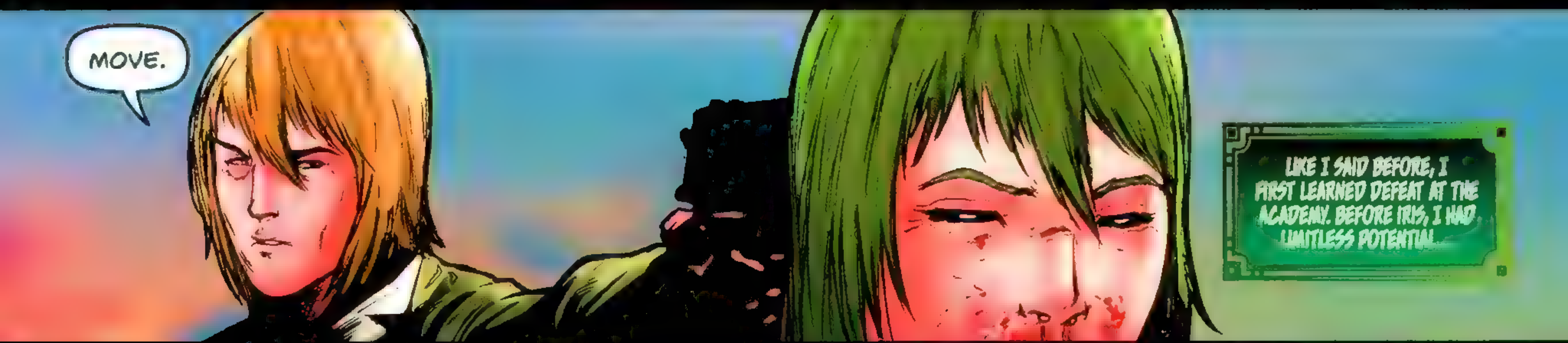
IT SHOULD
BE ANY MINUTE
NOW. THE BIRD'S
ALREADY IN
THE SKY.


WELL DONE,
TARVER--

--THESE
EXECUTIVE
ASSISTANTS HAVE
BECOME A LIABILITY
TO OUR APPROACHES
IN THE MIDDLE EAST
AND ASIA.

I CANNOT
CONTINUE TO ALLOW
THEIR INTERFERENCE.
SIMPLY REMOVING THE
SNAKE'S HEAD WON'T
DO ANYMORE. WE
MUST START AT
THE BODY.

I KNOW YOU
THINK THIS MEASURE IS
EXTREME, BUT I MUST LOOK
TO THE FUTURE-- AND FUTURE
THREATS TO GUARD AGAINST--
TO PROTECT THE INTERESTS
OF OUR ORGANIZATION. IT IS
MY RESPONSIBILITY...





THE HARDER I TRY,
THE WORSE I FAIL.

TO BE CONTINUED...

From the Creators that brought you Witchblade & Fathom: **David Wohl** (Witchblade, Aphrodite IX) and **Michael Turner** (Fathom, Soulfire)

EXECUTIVE
ASSISTANT
A

ASSASSINS #2

LIFE AFTER
DEATH
PART 2 OF 3



**Aspen's First Ever
Ongoing Series Continues!**

WRITTEN BY: VINCE HERNANDEZ
PENCILS BY: JORDAN GUNDERSON
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Jarutaru

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Reading Suggestions

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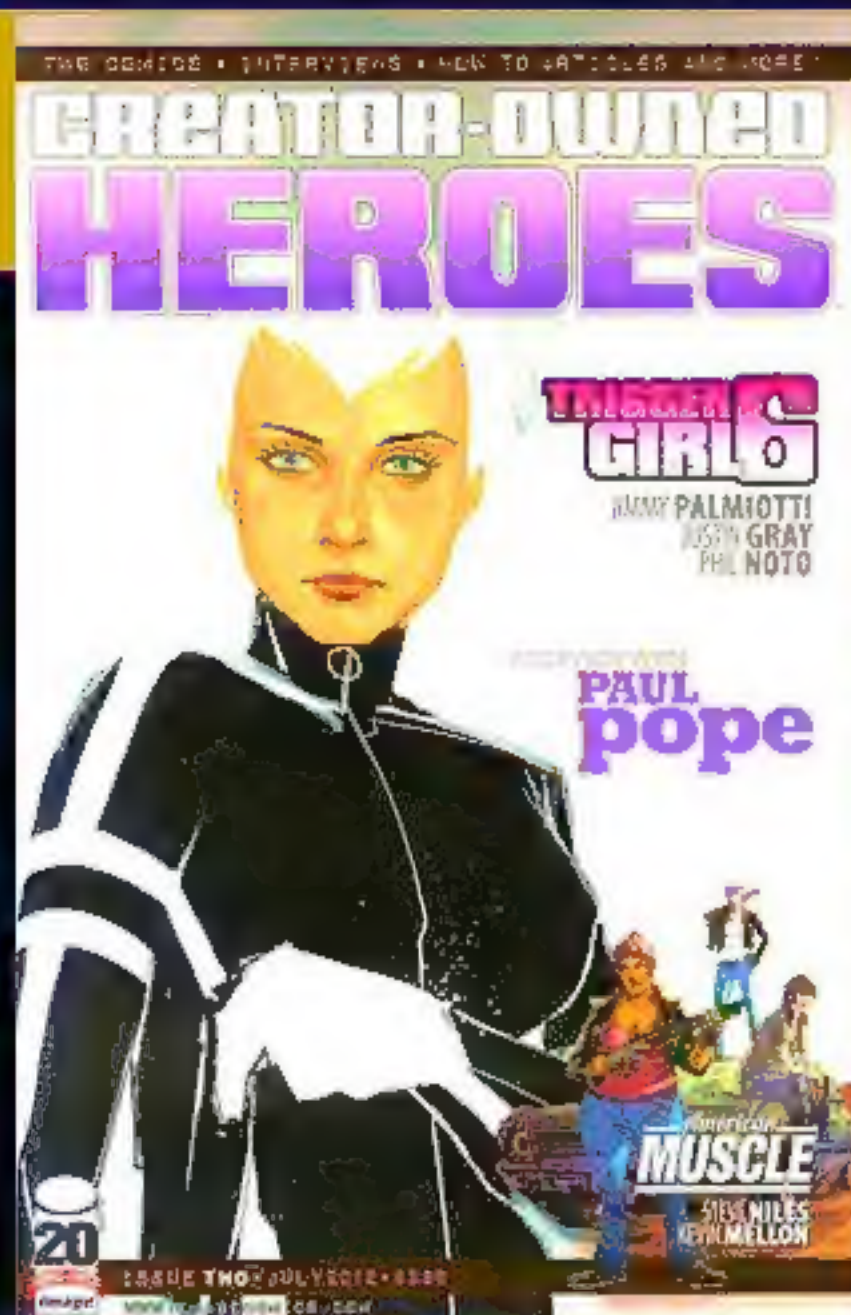


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Creator Owned
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Darkness 105



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Mass Effect
Homeworlds 3

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